

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03266 260939Z

11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 /020 W

----- 116398

R 260907Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3311

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJ: AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ABROAD.

REF: STATE 94266

THERE IS NO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR OTHER ORGANIZED AMERICAN BUSINESS GROUP IN TURKEY. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RESIDENT US BUSINESSMEN IN THIS COUNTRY IS LOCATED IN ISTANBUL. THEY REPRESENT ABOUT TWO DOZEN FIRMS ENGAGED VARIOUSLY IN MANUFACTURING, SHIPPING, BANKING, AND PETROLEUM. THE LEADING MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER AT INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETINGS ONCE A MONTH, WITH ATTENDANCE NORMALLY RANGING FROM 12 TO 20 PERSONS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL ISTANBUL REGULARLY TAKE PART IN THESE MEETINGS. THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM ATTEND THESE LUNCHEON MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN THEY ARE IN ISTANBUL OR MAY OTHERWISE MEET WITH THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES IN SPECIAL MEETINGS WITH THE BROADER US COMMUNITY THERE. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ALSO GOES TO ISTANBUL FOR THESE MEETINGS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR. (IN ADDITION TO THIS, EMBASSY OFFICERS MEET WITH INDIVIDUAL ISTANBUL BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES WHEN THEY COME TO ANKARA AS THEY FREQUENTLY DO.) THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY DOES NOT REPORT NOT WISH TO SET UP A MORE FORMAL ORGANIZATION. FOR SEVERAL REASONS (WHICH INCLUDE THEIR RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER AS WELL AS VARIOUS TURKISH SENSITIVITIES TO FOREIGN INFLU-

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03266 260939Z

ENCES), THEY CONSIDER THAT THEIR PRESENT INFORMAL STRUCTURE

TURE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR THEIR INTERESTS HERE.
MACOMBER

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